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PTO3414

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ACTION DS-00

INFO	LOG-00	MFA-00	NP-00	AMAD-00	ACQ-00	CIAE-00	INL-00
	DODE-00	WHA-00	UTED-00	VC-00	TEDE-00	INR-00	LAB-01
	VCE-00	AC-01	NSAE-00	ACE-00	IRM-00	TEST-00	EPAE-00
	DSCC-00	DRL-02	NFAT-00	SAS-00	/004W		

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R 112114Z JUL 02
FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6700
INFO NSC WASHDC
USCINCSO MIAMI FL
AMEMBASSY BOGOTA

RELEASED IN FULL

UNCLAS CARACAS 001991

USCINCSO ALSO FOR POLAD
NSC FOR SALCEDO; AMB. MAISTO
DS/OP/WHA

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: PREL, PGOV, ASEC, VE
SUBJECT: POLITICAL UPDATE: JULY 11, 2002, 5:00 P.M.

1. SUMMARY: AS OF MID-AFTERNOON THE MARCH HAS BEEN PEACEFUL. AS THE MARCH REACHED ITS FINISHING POINT, A GROUP OF MARCHERS HEADED ONTO THE FRANCISCO FAJARDO HIGHWAY HEADING TOWARDS LA CARLOTA WHERE CHAVEZ IS EXPECTED TO ARRIVE THIS AFTERNOON.

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BEFORE HIS DEPARTURE, CHAVEZ ORDERED THE FAN TO REMAIN IN THEIR BARRACKS FOR TWENTY-FOURS AS OF EARLY THIS MORNING. AFTER THREE MONTHS SINCE THE OCCURRENCES OF APRIL 11, THE NA IS PREPARED TO PRESENT THREE REPORTS OUTLINING ITS INVESTIGATIONS INTO THE INCIDENTS OF APRIL 11-14. END SUMMARY

DEVELOPMENTS OF TODAY'S OPPOSITION MARCH

2. GROUPS OF MARCHERS BEGAN CONCENTRATING EARLY THIS MORNING AT AVENIDA LIBERTADOR AND STARTED TO MARCH AROUND 11:30 A.M. ACCORDING TO THE PRESS, "ORGANIZERS CLAIM THAT ONE MILLION" ATTENDED THE MARCH WHILE ANTONIO LEDEZMA, LEADER OF ALIANZA BRAVO PUEBLO (ABP), SAID 1.6 MILLION PARTICIPATED. DURING

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YESTERDAY'S MEETING WITH MINISTER OF INTERIOR AND JUSTICE DIOSDADO CABELLO, ANTONIO LEDEZMA, STATED TO CABELLO THAT THE MARCH WILL HEAD FOR MIRAFLORES HAVING THE PERMISSION TO DO SO FROM CARACAS MAYOR ALFREDO PENA. IN RESPONSE, CABELLO ASSERTED THAT THE GOV WOULD PUT IN PLACE SECURITY BARRIERS AROUND CARMELITAS.

3. AS OF MIDDAY, THE SIZE OF THE MARCH EASILY RIVALED, AND PROBABLY EXCEEDED, THAT OF APRIL 11. THE MARCHERS STARTED FOLLOWING THE PLANNED ROUTE FROM AVENIDA LIBERTADOR UNTIL MIDDAY. THERE WAS A SMALL PRO-CHAVEZ DEMONSTRATION AT CALVANO HILL (ABOUT FIVE BLOCKS FROM THE OPPOSITION, AND ONE BLOCK FROM MIRAFLORES). AROUND MID-AFTERNOON AS THE MARCH APPROACHED ITS FINISHING POINT, A GROUP OF PROTESTERS COMING FROM AVENIDA URDANETA SPILLED OVER INTO THE FRANCISCO FAJARDO HIGHWAY HEADING TOWARDS LA CARLOTA WHERE CHAVEZ IS EXPECTED TO RETURN THIS

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AFTERNOON FROM MARACAY.

AS OF 5:00 P.M., THE MARCH HAD BEEN RE-DIRECTED TO THE AIR BASE AT LA CARLOTA. MOST OF THE AUTOPISTA FROM DOWNTOWN TO LA CARLOTA IS BLOCKED WITH MARCHERS, AND THE CROWD AT THE GATE CONTINUES TO GROW. IT DOES NOT APPEAR THAT THE TOTAL NUMBER OF PEOPLE IN THE STREETS HAS DROPPED SIGNIFICANTLY. WE ARE ATTEMPTING TO DETERMINE THEIR INTENTIONS. WE ARE ALSO TRYING TO DETERMINE THE LOCATION OF THE CROWD OF CHAVEZ SUPPORTERS THAT WAS NEAR MIRAFLORES.

GOV ORDERS FANS TO STAY IN BARRACKS DURING MARCH

4. AS PRESIDENT CHAVEZ PREPARED FOR HIS DEPARTURE TO MARACAY, HE ORDERED THE ARMY (FAN) TO REMAIN IN THEIR QUARTERS AT FUERTE TIUNA DURING THE MARCH, ACCORDING TO EL NACIONAL. COMMANDER GENERAL OF THE ARMY, JULIO GARCIA MONTOYA, CONFIRMED THE ORDERS OF THE FAN'S CONFINEMENT TO THEIR BARRACKS FOR TWENTY-FOUR HOURS STARTING AT SIX THIS MORNING. MONTOYA ALSO DENIED THE MOVEMENT OF TROOPS TO CARACAS TO ACTIVATE PLAN AVILA AND EXPLAINED THAT THE TROOPS WERE SIMPLY BEING RE-LOCATED TO FUERTE TIUNA (FOR ABOUT A MONTH) AND IT HAPPENED TO COINCIDE NEAR THE JULY 11 MARCH.

NA FINALIZING REPORTS ON THE OCCURENCES APRIL 11-14

5. AFTER THREE MONTHS OF INVESTIGATION INTO THE OCCURRENCES OF APRIL 11-14, THE POLITICAL COMMISSION OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

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(NA) PREPARED THREE REPORTS ON THE APRIL 11-14 INCIDENTS. ONE
REPORT PRESENTED BY CHAVEZ SUPPORTERS LINKS POLITICAL MOVEMENTS
AND PLANNED CONSPIRACIES AS THE CATALYST FOR THE INCIDENTS OF
APRIL 11-14. ANOTHER REPORT TO BE PRESENTED BY THE OPPOSITION
CONSIDERS CHAVEZ' MISUSE OF THE PRESIDENTIAL POWERS UNDER THE
BOLIVARIAN CONSTITUTION AS THE TRIGGER LEADING TO APRIL 11-14.
THE LAST REPORT TO BE PRESENTED IS BY MAS DEPUTY CARLOS
TABLANTE, WHICH OUTLINES A PROPOSED SOLUTION TO THE CURRENT
POLITICAL CRISIS.

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